

Teens face misdemeanor inciting a riot charge for fight
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Words of Wisdom

Inspirational book sales soar this Christmas season
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Helping Hands

Haywood Lee plans to retire as Iredell, Edenton Visitor's Center groundskeeper
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Marge Soper wins People's Choice with magnolias, tugboat
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Kids help feed the hungry

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

High school sophomores Trenisha Taylor and Nashina White have learned firsthand the value of giving something back.

This marks the second year the two John A. Holmes students have organized a holiday food drive at their school to benefit the less fortunate in our community.

"All the classes in the school participate," Taylor said. The drive will continue until the students have their Christmas break from attending classes.

Participation has been good, the pair said.

"We are accepting all kinds of canned, non-perishable foods during the drive," said White.

Their motivation is simple but sincere — to give something back so that others might know someone cares.

"This is something we wanted to do because we know that the Food Pantry's supplies get low and we wanted to try to help them fill up their shelves again," Taylor remarked.

Teacher Arlissa Wills is serving as faculty sponsor for the drive. She said that over 150 cans have been collected so far.

Wills said that anybody who believes young people today don't care about anyone but themselves has only to look at the effort put into this volunteer activity by these two young women to know that reputation is undeserved by many.

"From being involved in this, I've learned that young people do care about others around them, that they are willing to put others first," she said.

In order to spread the word

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Christmas Candlelight Tour 2006



Sean Jackson/The Chowan Herald

Elegant decorations like those at Bud Powell's house during the Candlelight Tour delighted visiting out-of-towners.

A sparkling occasion

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

More than 1200 people enjoyed the glitter, candlelight and shimmer of the 25th annual Christmas Candlelight tour this weekend.

People from as far away as Kentucky and Indiana came specifically for the event.

"My son and daughter, David and Jan Barrett of Drummond's Point, called me last year after the tour and said

that every home they visited they fell in love with. They asked me if I'd be willing to give up part of my Christmas to come this year, so they sent me a ticket," Mary Ann Root of Indiana, said.

Root warmed herself with fresh, hot apple cider at the Cupola House while the 20 degree chill beat against the wavy glass.

For Jan Harris of Weddington, N.C., this was an early Christmas present from her

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More photos from the 2006 Christmas Candlelight Tour.
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husband, Wayne, who discovered the area, and the tour, through his work with Nextel. It was a romantic get-away, Jan said, as she strolled glove in

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By the numbers

Christmas Candlelight Tour ticket sales

Year	Tourgoers
2004	— 1,500
2005	— 1,200
2006	— 1,238

Spruill steps aside after 20 years

Sheriff brought on new officers, over \$5 million in grants to Chowan

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

Sheriff Fred Spruill, 54, has made it a point for the past 20 years to do more than chase criminals and make public appearances.

So when friends, family and well-wishers gathered Nov. 30 at the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse



Spruill

on the day of his retirement, it was almost too much for him to handle.

"I've spent 32 years in law enforcement and the last 20 of those as sheriff of Chowan County, and it's truly been an honor to serve as the sheriff of the citizens of Chowan. I'm humbled by the support and confidence the people have shown in me," Spruill said, his eyes flooded with tears.

After 32 years of law enforcement service Spruill announced his decision to retire in the fall of 2005.

And already his "honey-do" list is growing and so is his personal list of things to do.

Spruill plans to remain active in the sheriff's office, working part-time as an auxiliary officer, and he will remain an active member of the Advance Ruritans.

"I'll keep busy for sure," Spruill said. "We, Mary and I, are going to be building a house near Cypress Point. I'll continue to go fishing. And community service projects are still a top priority for me. There won't

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Eight local youth apprehended for roles in recent fight in town

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Eight Edenton young men were apprehended recently for fighting, ranging in age from 15 to 19 years old.

Police Chief Greg Bonner said officers received a call Dec. 5 about a group of youths gathered at Blades Circle, where some were fighting.

When police arrived, most of the young men fled in different directions, but police were able to apprehend eight young men, including three juveniles, Bonner

added.

The three juveniles were handed over to state Juvenile Services officials, Bonner said.

The other five young men each was charged with misdemeanor inciting a riot and resisting arrest. Each was placed under a \$5,000 secured bond.

Bonner said his officers will not hesitate to make more arrests. Last week's fight was the third in recent months involving multiple young males.

"This is certainly going to be one of our serious approaches to this kind of activity in the

Town of Edenton," he said as officers processed the five adult males inside the police station.

Shortly before the fight was reported, 13 to 20 young men were reportedly gathered near John A. Holmes High School shortly after school had let out.

That incident never resulted in a fight being reported. But police asked two students leaving that scene if they were OK, Bonner said.

"They just said 'no' and kept walking," he said.

About 20 minutes later, roughly 13 young men were seen fighting on Blades Circle, several blocks from the school.

Reduced electric rate eyed for Jan. 1 in Edenton

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Edenton power customers are likely to receive a belated Christmas gift from the town in the way of reduced electric bills.

The Town Council was expected to approve a 1-percent reduction in the power rate Tuesday night, Town Manager Anne Knighton said.

The decrease is a result of a lower rate passed on to the town by the N.C. Eastern Municipal Power

Agency, Knighton said. The decrease would go into effect on Jan. 1, Knighton added.

"It's a very modest decrease," she said, "but it's a step in the right direction."

In effect, a customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month would see a \$1.43 savings on their monthly electric bill, beginning in February, Knighton said.

The council was scheduled to cast its vote after press time.

